



**Welcome to the St. Patrick Confirmation Program!**

*991 S Waukegan Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045*



## What is Confirmation?



*“When a coach sends a soccer player onto the playing field, he puts his hand on his shoulder and gives him final instructions. We can understand Confirmation in a similar way. A hand is placed upon us. We step out onto the field of life. Through the Holy Spirit we know what we have to do and we have been given the power to do it. He has motivated us. His mission resounds in our ears. We sense his help. We will not betray his trust or disappoint him; we will win the game for him. We just have to want to do it and listen to him.” (YouCat 203)*

Many Catholics view the Sacrament of Confirmation as a type of “graduation”, or end of their religious education formation. But Confirmation is not an end! It’s not a check box to just be achieved and done with. It is a beginning! Often times going to class, completing service hours, picking a saint and a sponsor can just seem like “jumping through hoops” or a to do list. But we encourage all of our parents and students to see the deeper meaning behind these activities. This is not just a checklist to complete or a graduation, but an opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

***Our mission at St. Patrick Church is for every teen in the Confirmation program to encounter and follow the person of Jesus Christ, and commit to being a life-long disciple in the Catholic Church.*** To achieve this goal, teens can expect to grow in community with their catechists and fellow classmates, while learning more about Church teachings, scripture, and sacramental theology. Through encountering Jesus personally and learning more about the Catholic faith, we hope that every teen will commit to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## Requirements and Deadlines

Aside from attending all classes, below are the other requirements that every candidate must fulfill in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Patrick Parish. If items are not completed by their due date, candidates may not be able to receive the Sacrament this year.

**Confirmation Commissioning Mass** (*Year 1 and Year 2*)

Students in both Year 1 and Year 2 are expected to attend one of the Confirmation Commissioning Masses. During this Mass, students will be asked to affirm their commitment to preparing for Confirmation as well as be blessed by the priest and the parish community. Parents and families are encouraged to attend the Mass with their student. Families can choose one of two Masses: Saturday, October 18 at 5pm or Sunday, October 19 at 10am.

Sign Up by emailing Yasmin Alba at [yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org](mailto:yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org)

**Year 1 Retreat** (*Year 1*)

All Year 1 students are expected to attend the Year 1 Confirmation retreat on DATE. The retreat will occur at the parish and will end with Confirmation class that evening.

**Year 2 Retreat** (*Year 2*)

All Year 2 students are expected to attend the Year 2 Confirmation retreat at Casa Iskali in Des Plaines on DATE. This will be a one-day retreat. Details and permission forms to follow later in the year.

**Saint Selection: January 25** (*Year 2*)

Details on page 10

Submit form online here: <https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

**Service Logs and Reflection: March 29** (*Year 1 and Year 2*)

Details on page 6

Submit Logs online here: <https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

**Letter to the Bishop** (*Year 2*)

All students in Year 2 must write a letter to the Bishop asking to be confirmed. Information to follow.

**Sponsor Form: November 2** (*Year 2*) **January 25** (*Year 1*)

Details on page 8

Submit form online here: <https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

## Contact Information & Office Hours

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[dmarshall@stpatrick-lakeforest.org](mailto:dmarshall@stpatrick-lakeforest.org)

Yasmin Alba  
Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation  
Office: 847-234-2179  
[yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org](mailto:yalba@stpatrick-lakeforest.org)

### Office Hours:

Sunday: Hours will vary based on activities  
Monday - Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm

## Attendance Policy

### **All students are required to attend every Confirmation event listed on the schedule**

We have very limited time to properly prepare each teenager for Confirmation, so it is necessary to attend every Confirmation class and scheduled event.

At times a serious conflict might arise and a teen is unable to attend class. These conflicts include illness and a family emergency. **Other conflicts such as sport practices, sport games, extracurricular activities, and studying are important, but are not considered a serious enough matter to miss a Confirmation class/event without being excused by the Director of Formation.** Schedules should be organized ahead of time to ensure that teens have reserved this time aside for Confirmation preparation. If you know ahead of time that a will arrive late, or may need to leave early, the Director of Formation must be informed beforehand, or it may be counted as an absence for the student.

In the rare circumstance when a teen has to miss class, they are allowed a total of two unexcused absences. After the two unexcused absences, they must inform the Director of Formation before class with the reason for their absence, and be excused from the class for the day. Teens will need to make-up any class they miss. Make-up sessions must be arranged with the director before the absence.

## Cancellation of Class

Confirmation class at St. Patrick's Church may be canceled due to inclement weather. When class is canceled the Faith Formation office will send out an email notification to all families in the program as soon as possible.

## Living the Call in Our Actions

In order for our events to run smoothly, everyone must be aware of and uphold our Youth Ministry Agreement. During all classes and other activities associated with the youth ministry program we ask you to display mature and responsible behavior. These are the expectations:

1. Please arrive on time.
2. We ask that you demonstrate common courtesy and respect at all times to all people, equipment, and environmental settings. Students should be attentive and respectful during lessons, in their small groups, and in their interactions with both adults and other students in the classroom.
3. Do not use inappropriate language (swearing, derogatory slurs, cruel jokes, cruel sarcasm, obscenities, etc).
4. Socializing should always be done in assigned areas.
5. Mp3 players, iPods, and other electronic devices are not allowed during classes or events.
6. Clothing should reflect the value of modesty and follow the Dress Code.
7. Harassment (verbal, emotional, physical) will not be tolerated.
8. Possession or consumption of alcohol, drugs, or any other illegal substances is prohibited.
9. Our parishes are drug, smoking, and weapon free areas

### **Participation**

Teenagers present are expected to willingly participate in every event and activity during any Confirmation event. We hope that every teenager will share the gifts that God has given him or her with the rest of the group! Teens will get out of the Confirmation what they put into it, so good participation is important!

### **Dress Code**

In order to show respect for ourselves and respect for the temple of our body which God gave us, as well as to avoid leading others into temptation, we have some guidelines that we ask students to follow. All clothing must be church appropriate, avoiding graphics which may be offensive or inappropriate. All students should wear clothing which does not reveal any undergarments. Please refrain from wearing clothing that is either too tight or too revealing. Please do not wear short shorts or mini-skirts. **Shorts/skirts should extend past the fingertips (while your arms hang loosely at your sides).** This dress code applies to **all Youth Ministry activities.**

### **Cell Phones**

All cell phones will be collected at the beginning of class and placed in a bin that will remain in the classroom during the entire class. Students will be asked to turn off phones or silence them so as not to be a distraction. Phones will be returned to all candidates at the end of each class period. This is to ensure that students can fully participate in all activities and discussions without distractions.

## **Service Hour Requirements**

*Year 1 and Year 2*

*“Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.” – Matthew 25:45*

**Due Date: March 29, 2026**

As part of St. Patrick's Confirmation Program, we want to help you actively integrate the Gospel message of serving others into your daily life. The purpose of service projects is to help you acquire the Gospel values of justice to others, love of neighbor, and service to the world. Your school community, parish community, and civic community are all places where service should be offered. Service should be performed at a **non-profit organization outside of your home**. Through our service experience we learn how to fulfill our Baptismal commitment of being Jesus to and for those in need. We desire to develop a heart and attitude of service more than fulfilling hourly requirements.

**The minimum number of service hours for our Confirmation candidates is 10 hours per year.**

Candidate's must complete the 10 hours of service during the confirmation preparation program from June 2025 - April 2026. Any community service performed outside of this time frame will not be accepted.

After each completed service activity, you must submit a service log on our website. Every service log will require students to describe the service they performed as well as how that service helped them to grow as a person and as a Christian. Students will also need to provide the name and email address of their supervisor (this person cannot be a parent). Also included with each submission, you will need to provide a form of verification for the service. This could be a letter from the organization with a signature, a picture of a flier advertising the service, a picture of the student working at the service organization, or something similar.

One service log must be completed for each service opportunity and can be done at any time during the year. To receive credit for your 10 hours of service, you must fill out the online form for each service opportunity by March 29.

**Submit Service Logs on St. Patrick website at the bottom of the Confirmation webpage:**

<https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

## **Suggested Service Opportunities**

To help confirmation students complete their 10 hours of service, listed below are *suggested* service opportunities offered through St. Patrick parish and outside organizations.

## **Outside Service Opportunities:**

### **Feed My Starving Children**

As a Christian non-profit organization, Feed My Starving Children is called to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit.

Visit [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) to reserve your spot.

### **Mission of Our Lady of the Angels** (*Mobile Food Pantry*)

Every 1st Saturday of the month about 250 families are provided with food, clothing, and household goods through Our Lady of the Angels Mobile Food Pantry.

**Location:** 3814 W. Iowa St. Chicago, IL 60651

**Time:** 8:45 AM - 11:00 AM

No need to sign-up, just visit <https://www.missionola.com/Calendar.html> for details.

### **Roberti Community House**

The Mission of Roberti Community House is to nourish, educate, and empower community members so that they can acknowledge, appreciate, and actualize their individual strengths and talents.

**Location:** 919 8th street Waukegan, IL 60085

To help volunteer, please contact [volunteerRCH@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerRCH@gmail.com) or call 224-209-3717.

### **Bernie's Book Bank**

Collects and donates new and gently used books to donate to underserved communities. To sign up to volunteer or get more information visit <https://www.berniesbookbank.org/volunteer/>

### **Other Places to Look**

- Your local library
- Your local park district
- Your grade school or middle school

## **Selecting a Sponsor**

*Year 1 and Year 2*

**Due Date: November 2, 2025 (Year 2) and January 25th, 2026 (Year 1)**

### **Role of Sponsor:**

**“As a rule there should be a sponsor for each of those to be confirmed. These sponsors bring the candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the minister for the anointing, and will later**

**help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.” (The Rite of Confirmation #5)**

Being a Sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed. Parents cannot be sponsors for their children because they are already their child’s most important teacher. Candidates may choose one of their Godparents to be their Sponsor to show the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, or they may choose a different person. This person should be a confirmed Catholic whom the candidate admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in his/her everyday life. Below lists the criteria of being a Confirmation Sponsor.

A Sponsor:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three Sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
3. Must be no less than 16 years of age at the time of Confirmation.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass every week, receives the Sacraments regularly.
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church in good standing.
6. Must not be a father or mother of the one being Confirmed.

*\*If a Sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation, a proxy may stand in. If necessary, a parent may serve as Proxy\**

Students must submit the sponsor form on St. Patrick’s website at the bottom of the Confirmation webpage here: <https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

## **Confirmation Saint**

*Year 2*

### **Why do Catholics choose a Confirmation Saint?**

As we go through our sacramental preparation for Confirmation, Confirmation saints are chosen to be a person we want to be like, as well as someone who can pray for us from heaven. Through the process of canonization, when someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful practiced heroic virtue during their life on earth, ‘the Church recognizes the power

of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers of proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors' (CCC 828). To aspire to be like a saint is the same as trying to imitate an actor, musician, or athlete; a confirmation saint is someone cool who we want to be like!

It is important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never alone, as St. Paul said, "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives after while here on earth. You can't call up a famous person you want to be like and ask them for help, but your confirmation saint is someone who you can talk to whenever you need them and they will always have your back!

### **How do I select a Confirmation Saint?**

#### **1.) Pray**

You're asking a saint to be a part of your life forever. Take some time to think and pray about a few things: What kind of role model are you looking for? What qualities do they have that you want? What kind of person are you hoping to become? Choose a saint that you can identify with. Pick a few different saints and then spend time in prayer and ask all of them to pray for you. You might find that one begins to stick out more than others.

#### **2.) Research**

After you've taken time to pray about it, do some reading. There are plenty of books and websites out there that will give you information on saints. The Church has a saint for almost anything you can think of.

#### **3.) Ask**

Talk to your parents, youth minister, pastor, or siblings about their Confirmation saints. Why did they pick them? Do they have a special devotion to a saint? Who would they pick for you? Asking those who know you best can help you find a saint you can really rely on for your whole life.

## **Confirmation Saint Reflection**

*Year 2*

**Due Date: January 25th, 2026**

As you prepare to select your confirmation saint, you will need to complete the online Confirmation Saint Selection form. This will help you walk through the process of selecting a Confirmation Saint (which is your Confirmation name!) You should think about the things that matter to you or someone who's faith

inspires you. Take this decision seriously because this becomes a part of your name and identity as a Catholic.

As you fill out the form, you will be asked to write a paragraph about what you learn about the saint (biographical information as well as other information about them). This is important because the Bishop may ask you questions about your saint at Confirmation. Trust me, it happened to me!

You will also be asked to write a paragraph about why you chose that saint. Think about how they inspire you and what ways you would like to emulate them in your life.

Please submit Reflection on St. Patrick's website at the bottom of the Confirmation webpage here:

<https://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/confirmationregistration>

## **Resources for Selecting a Confirmation Saint**

- <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>
- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

## **Resources for Parents, Catechists, and Sponsors**

Guiding teens closer to Christ can be a challenging and difficult task, especially today. Below are some helpful resources that aim at assisting parents, mentors, and youth ministry volunteers in teaching the Catholic faith to teens.

**Ascension Presents**

Ascension Presents is an evangelistic platform bringing faith-filled, entertaining and dynamic presenters straight to your newsfeed. By providing engaging content that reflects the good, the true and the beautiful Ascension Presents hope to bring their hearts closer to Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdGX3N-WIJ5nUvkIBTNhAw/featured>

**Word on Fire** <https://www.youtube.com/user/wordonfirevideo>

Word on Fire YouTube channel provides brief and insightful commentaries on faith and culture by Catholic theologian and author Bishop Robert Barron.

**Catholic Answers** <https://www.catholic.com/>

Catholic Answers, based in El Cajon, California, is the largest lay-run apostolate of Roman Catholic apologetics and evangelization in the United States. If you or your teen has a difficult question about the Catholic faith, visit the URL above and receive your answer instantaneously.

**The Catholic Parent** <http://thecatholicparent.org/>

Numerous national studies on Christian youth have revealed that when a parent's faith life is strong and vibrant, so too is their teen's. The Catholic Parent wants to do everything possible to encourage parents to pursue their faith and live it out dynamically in their homes, modeling for their teenagers what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. When parents do this, teens can't help but want to be disciples too!

**Chastity Project** <https://chastityproject.com/>

Chastity Project is a ministry of Jason and Crystalina Evert that promotes the virtue of chastity through seminars, resources, clubs, and social media.

**Pints with Aquinas** <http://pintswithaquinas.com/>

If you could sit down with St. Thomas Aquinas over a pint of beer and ask him any one question, what would it be? Listen to Matt Frad, an internationally known speaker, approach theological and philosophical questions about the Catholic Church on his podcast "Pints with Aquinas".

# Confirmation

## Year 1 Confirmation Schedule

Sundays, 4:00pm-5:30pm, O'Gara Center

2025 – 2026

<b>September 21st</b>	Program Orientation/Kick-off (Parent and Student attend)
<b>October 5th</b>	<b>Class 1:</b> Lesson 1
<b>October 19th</b>	<b>Class 2:</b> Lesson 2
<b>November 2nd</b>	<b>Class 3:</b> Lesson 3
<b>November 16th</b>	<b>Class 4:</b> Lesson 4
<b>December 14th</b>	<b>Class 5:</b> Lesson 5
<b>January 11th</b>	<b>Class 6:</b> Lesson 6
<b>January 25th</b>	<b>Class 7:</b> Lesson 7
<b>February 1st</b>	<b>Class 8:</b> Lesson 8
<b>February 22nd</b>	<b>Class 9:</b> Lesson 9
<b>March 1st</b>	<b>Class 10:</b> Lesson 10
<b>March 15th</b>	Reconciliation Service
<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Class 11:</b> Lesson 11
<b>April 12th</b>	<b>Class 12:</b> Lesson 12
<b>Retreat:</b>	March 15th



## **Year 2 Confirmation Schedule**

**Sundays, 4:00pm-5:30pm, O’Gara Center**

**2025 – 2026**

<b>September 21st</b>	Program Orientation/Kick-off (Parent and Student attend)
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<b>October 5th</b>	<b>Class 1:</b> Lesson 13
<b>October 19th</b>	<b>Class 2:</b> Lesson 14
<b>November 2nd</b>	<b>Class 3:</b> Lesson 15
<b>November 16th</b>	<b>Class 4:</b> Lesson 16
<b>December 14th</b>	<b>Class 5:</b> Lesson 17
<b>January 11th</b>	<b>Class 6:</b> Lesson 18
<b>January 25th</b>	<b>Class 7:</b> Lesson 19
<b>February 1st</b>	<b>Class 8:</b> Lesson 20
<b>February 22nd</b>	<b>Class 9:</b> Lesson 21
<b>March 1st</b>	<b>Class 10:</b> Lesson 22
<b>March 15th</b>	Reconciliation Service
<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Class 11:</b> Lesson 23
<b>April 12th</b>	<b>Class 12:</b> Lesson 24
<b>Retreat:</b>	April 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Confirmation Rehearsal and Mass: TBA</b>	